

The Nexus between Peace, Human Rights and Development in the Promotion of People's Human Rights in Zimbabwe

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Abstract

This paper seeks to clearly explain some crucial links between peace, human rights and development. The central argument is that there has been a recent discovery of the strong link between peace, human rights and development which has to be exploited for effective human development to be realised. The major findings were that there is a strong dialectical nexus between peace, human rights and development. The central conclusions were that the article constructed a theory of 'positive peace, participation and human rights', which takes into account peace, human rights and development in order to promote the quality of human rights. Furthermore, the article argues that the absence of effective institutions to promote and respect human rights may lead to a conflict trap and resultantly an upsurge of physical violence. The findings were that there is need to take into account the linkages between peace and human rights which are crucial in the improvement of the quality of human rights for the people. The policy implications deriving from this research were that there is dire need to integrate the three pillars of peace, development and human rights to reduce conflict and promote stability in societies. Peace and human rights are key phrases used.

Keywords: *Development, Human rights, Peace, Poverty, Universalism.*

The role of peace in promoting development cannot be doubted. It can be observed that generally, on a global scale, violent communities lag behind in terms of development because they scare away potential and existing investors (Sen, 2000). Peaceful and politically stable countries have been able to attract new and retain existing investors and thus promote development. Historically, the link between peace

and development can be traced way back to the 1975 Dag Hammarskjold Foundation which defined development as “need oriented, endogenous, self-reliant, ecologically sound and based on structural transformation.” (Barnett, 2008). This definition clearly incorporates the concept of human rights in the development agenda as it seeks to promote environmental rights and human needs. The interaction between peace and human rights is growing tremendously and on many institutional fronts (Nelson and Dorsey, 2003). Before the 1990’s the link between development practitioners and human rights advocates was very limited. From the early 1990’s onwards, development came to be seen as a right and the thrust on democracy and good governance became a requirement to access development assistance (Nelson *et al.*, 2003). That extremely brought the convergence between human rights and human development.

Development is a contested concept which has been defined differently by scholars. Some scholars such as (Solow, 1956, Mabogunje, 1980, Schumpeter, 1942) define development in terms of economic growth which is measured by a rise in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This has been widely contested as a country may have a high GDP whilst its citizens have very low standards of living and are in abject poverty. Other scholars such as (Kuznets, 1934, Castro and Prasad, 2018, Sen, 1999) define development in terms of a reduction in poverty levels in the society. Poverty has been defined as a deficiency in resources needed to constitute a normal life. This paper defines poverty as inaccessibility to resources perpetuated by policies of exclusion such that normal progressive life would be made impossible.

This paper defines development as a process that creates growth, promotes positive change and results in an improvement in access to available resources by citizens. It also encompasses elimination or reduction of poverty and limits the chances of violent abuse of citizens.

Human Rights are defined as “the rights people are entitled to simply because they are human beings, irrespective of their citizenship, nationality, race, ethnicity, language, sex, sexuality, or abilities; human rights become enforceable when they are codified as conventions,

covenants, or treaties, or as they become recognized as customary international law.” (Afunaduula, 2005). This paper defines human rights as norms that aim to protect people from serious political, legal and social abuses. This shows that citizens have a right to have equal access to resources in order to develop economically and live a peaceful life.

On a general term, peace can simply be defined as the absence of war in society. On a scholarly argument like this one, such a definition of peace falls short as it only refers to negative peace. (Barbey, 2015) had this to say on peace, “Peace has traditionally been seen as an international matter with a definition of peace limited to the absence of war or conflict; that is negative peace. Because peace also includes the conditions needed for peace to last and to prevail –positive peace– it touches most realms of life.” A rather more detailed definition of peace goes further to mention positive peace, which is peace without any form of violence such as structural violence, where swords have disappeared and have been turned into ploughshares. (Galtung, 1964). In addition, (Barnett 2008) noted that “Peace is the goal and process of expanding people’s freedoms.” This resonates well with the findings by (Barbey, 2015) who emphasizes the importance of conditions for long lasting peace rather than just mere absence of war. This clearly shows that a complete definition of peace has to include positive peace.

This paper defines peace as a condition in which there is absence of violence of all forms, structural or violent, full citizen participation and realization of social justice leading to durable peace.

This paper is divided into four sections, the first part deals with the nexus between peace and development, the second part deals with the nexus between human rights and development, the third section deals with the link between peace and human rights and the last section deals with the roles of governments in promoting the realization of improved human rights.

Background

There were wild celebrations in Zimbabwe after the dethronement of Robert Mugabe from power in November 2017. The 2018 elections held thereafter, were seriously contested though they were somewhat peaceful. This was a clear indication that the system of governance had not changed. To that end, the 2019 World Report noted that “Relatively peaceful national elections marred by disputed results and post-election violence signified that little had changed in Zimbabwe in 2018.” It is quite crucial to observe that the high hopes that the citizens of Zimbabwe pinned on the Mnangagwa regime began to be dented. The 2018 August 1 shootings of citizens by soldiers which killed at least six people was a precursor to a series of human rights violations which followed and persist up to today in the form of detention of journalists, violent repression of peaceful demonstrations, abduction and torture of human rights activists and leaders of opposition political parties among many. (World Report, 2019). To that end, the (Newsday, 2020) newspaper reported that “Several human rights and political activists, journalists and opposition political supporters are languishing in remand prison, while others have been arrested, charged and released for alleged subversion.” Resultantly, these human rights violations have impacted negatively on the economy which has greatly declined between 2017 and 2020. A closer analysis of the economy between 2017 and to date has revealed that the GDP growth was at 3.5% in 2017, declined by -8.3% in 2018 and -7.4% in 2020. (World Bank Report, 2020). The 2018 African Development bank report noted that “Inflation spiked from single digits in 2018 to more than 200% in November 2019... More than 60% of the population falls below the poverty line.” In addition, the economic cost of violence was 5% of GDP in 2018. (Institute for Economics and Peace, 2019). Despite a panoply of other factors such as corruption, over expenditure by the government, it is plausible to conjecture that the absence of inclusive peace and human rights violations have also had a serious negative impact on economic growth

and development. It is quite crucial to point out that all these human rights violations are in disregard of international law and best practice specifically the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) which advocates for the right to free speech, right to freedom from torture and right to life. Furthermore, human rights violations are a violation of the constitutional provisions of Zimbabwe, particularly section 44 which states that “The state and every person, including juristic persons, and every institution and agency of the government at every level must respect, protect, promote and fulfil the rights and freedoms set out in this chapter.” It could be argued that these constitutional provisions are just aspirational for they only exist on paper and not in practice. There is therefore a wide gap between what exists on paper and what is on the ground. The government does not seem to open a free democratic space and demonstrations have been crushed with brutal force. 6 people died and 35 others were injured as a result of actions by state security forces (Motlanthe Commission of Inquiry, 2018). (Amnesty International, 2021) noted that “Security forces frequently used excessive force to prevent or crackdown on peaceful protests and to impose lockdown restrictions killing at least 10 people”. Yet, human rights violations still persist unabated with seemingly no solution in sight (Institute for Security studies, 2009). (The World Report, 2021) posit that “Unidentified assailants, suspected to be state security agents, abducted and tortured more than 70 critics of the government during 2020.” Citizens cannot express themselves freely through peaceful demonstrations, social and print media. The police violently dispersed protests in July, wherein 16 protestors were injured and a further 60 were arrested (World Report, 2021). In view of the foregoing, the Mnangagwa administration has faced international and regional condemnation for these human rights violations which have led to a crisis. The regime has devised and perfected subtle, but very sophisticated strategies to silence any voices of dissent. However, the government of Zimbabwe has denied the existence of a crisis.

The nexus between peace and development

Peace and investment

The interconnection between peace and development cannot be doubted and under emphasized. Scholars such as (Galtung 1989, Hettne, 1993, Sorensen, 1985) argued that there is a strong intersection between peace and development. It is crucial to point out that a peaceful environment is a conducive place to conduct business. A peaceful environment attracts both potential investors from within the country and internationally to come and do business. Conversely, a violent or unstable environment scares away investors and is therefore shunned by development opportunities and hence a country lags behind in development. To that effect, (Jonsson, 2010) asserts that “Violence constrains development.” It is therefore by no coincidence that the most peaceful nations in the World rank amongst the most developed (The Global Peace Index, 2020). The Nordic countries such as Sweden, Norway and Finland quickly come into mind. Furthermore, it is quite significant to observe that technological innovations have occurred in the most peaceful countries under stable conditions leading to development. It could be argued that states, as duty bearers must create conditions that promote the realization of development. There is also evidence to show that nations that have pursued liberal policies and strong institutions that promote human rights have enjoyed tremendous successes in terms of development. To that end, (Barnett, 2008) posit that “There is evidence to suggest that the more states are of pluralist type, the more freedoms and opportunities are upheld. The relative successes of the liberal democratic welfare states of western Europe in balancing freedoms with opportunities and guarantees suggest that peace and development are indeed matters of institutional design.” It is therefore quite evident that there is a strong dialectical nexus between peace, development and human rights.

In addition, a peaceful environment also retains existing investors which is a crucial aspect of development. Investment retention is an important pillar of development ethics in the sense that those

businesses on the ground have a better chance of creating a positive image about a country and hence attract related businesses. A country's major thrust should therefore not only be the attraction of new investors but also the retention of existing ones to promote stability in the economy. The continuous incoming and outgoing of investors promotes instability and slows development. Zimbabwe needs to adopt a liberal approach to its system of governance by implementing the New Public Management (NPM) system which advocates for marketization and economic liberalization to promote the right to development (Hood, 1991). This will greatly help in attracting new and retaining existing investors.

Peace and citizen participation

The interaction between peace and development ensures full participation by citizens in the development matrix of the state. It could be argued that full participation by citizens permits them to demand the fulfilment of their rights from the duty bearer. To that end, (Barbey, 2015) concedes that "Human rights empower people to live freely and happily." The freedom given to citizens to participate in the affairs of the state is an important human right which promotes peace as it limits chances of confrontation between the state and its citizens. One can also note that when citizens are accorded their right to participate, they also reduce chances of abuse and impunity by the state (Barbey, 2015). The same author further observed that "Human rights are peace prone; they favour peace. They limit the capacity of the state to abuse power, they are meant to be lived and defended if need be." (Barbey, 2015). In view of the foregoing, one does not therefore fail to see the link between peace and human rights. It is crucial to note that Zimbabwe has not done very well in implementing mechanisms to limit the abuse of power by the state which it wields through oppressive legislation. Human rights violations have limited creativity, increased deprivation and hence diminishing prosperity for future generations. There is need for Zimbabwe to increase and free

the political space to allow for effective participation by citizens. This can be effectively done by freeing the airwaves and allowing freedom of assembly, association and expression. Repealing oppressive pieces of legislation like Access to Information, Privacy and Protection Act (AIPPA) would go a long way in improving the quality of human rights in the country. Oppressive pieces of legislation and physical violence have greatly impaired innovation and hence contributed to lack of development.

Human rights and development

Human rights and political rights

Emerging trends have revealed that the link between human rights and civil and political rights has not been previously exploited. It is prudent to observe that the promotion of human rights is in a way development in itself as it helps to make citizens, the environment and the state benefit. To that end, (Nelson *et al.*, 2003) assert that “The nexus of human rights and development is complex and multidimensional.” It is multidimensional in the sense that if the fulfilment of social, economic and cultural rights is not realized, violence may ultimately break out due to discontentment. The only option to prevent physical and psychological violence from occurring is to promote human rights. Human rights promotion creates an enabling environment for human capital formation, infrastructure development and limits deprivation thereby eliminating chances of physical violence from erupting (Sen, 2000). The findings of Nelson *et al.*, corroborate with those of (Barbey, 2015) who concedes that “The absence of fulfilment of economic and social rights is a major cause of non-peace; poverty causes violence, crime, migrations and conflicts over resources.” The refusal by the Zimbabwe government to ratify international conventions and pieces of legislation makes the enjoyment of economic and social rights a pie in the sky for most of its citizens. Zimbabwe has not ratified the African charter on elections and good governance adopted by member states in 2007,

which seeks to promote human rights respect as one of its major objectives (New Zimbabwe, 2017). Resultantly, most of these elections have been marred by violence and were seriously contested. This greatly affects the quality of people's human rights and hence low levels of development as investors shun violence. It can therefore be argued that human rights and development have a crucial intersection that needs to be exploited for the benefit of citizens to enjoy a better quality of their rights in society. The 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development is a clear indication that there is need to explore the link between the two pillars for societal progress. One can therefore posit that there is a strong connection between human rights and development.

However, the success of this interaction is not uniform in all societies. In order for success to be realized, it has to take into consideration diversity and environmental and cultural aspects. To that end, (Nelson *et al.*, 2003) posit that "...the success of the interaction is uneven and likely to depend heavily on the political and organizational context, as well as on the strength of individual norms regarding rights to economic and social goods." Consequently, the contestations on the secrecy of proceeds from mineral resources as economic and social goods in Zimbabwe needs to be avoided so that transparency and accountability prevails. Individuals are enriching themselves looting proceeds from minerals at the expense of the majority of the people. To that end, (The Maverick report, 2021) observed that "Wealth is recycled in a tiny elite and kept out of range of the common man." Areas that are naturally endowed with mineral resources have well developed infrastructure and those that do not have minerals are lagging behind. One can therefore argue that there is need to promote proportional devolved sharing of proceeds from mineral resources in Zimbabwe. This also helps to benefit areas that were not naturally endowed with resources. There is therefore dire need to distribute equally proceeds from mineral resources in order to realize development in all provinces.

Human rights and development programming

The concept of human rights needs to be a crucial pillar of development and therefore programmed into development. It could be argued that human rights and development can never be treated in isolation as they are inseparable. The 2008 Accra Agenda for Action is a clear recent declaration which advocates for this linkage on the effectiveness of Aid in promoting human and social development. To explicitly show the linkages between peace and human rights, (Eliasson, 2011) argued that “My main message today is that lasting solutions require that the pursuit of peace, development and human rights must take place in parallel.” It can be argued that for effective development to be realized in communities, the inter-linkages between peace, human rights and development need to be integrated and promoted. Such an approach promotes sustainability in development programmes leading to lasting solutions. Rights holders, in this case citizens can claim their rights and the state as the duty bearer should fulfil its responsibility. There is therefore a nexus between development and human rights. One can therefore point out that human rights standards act as the yardstick upon which desired outcomes are measured. In view of the foregoing, (Jonsson, 2010) examines that “A Human Rights-Based approach (HRBD) to development thus means that human rights standards define the development outcome and human rights principles define legitimacy for the process resulting in a sustainable realization of human rights.” One can therefore posit that the integration of human rights and human development significantly helps to improve the quality of people’s human rights. In Zimbabwe, there is need to craft clear policies and pieces of legislation which make the state accountable as the duty bearer so that redress is possible where necessary. In addition, there is need for mechanisms to be put in place by the state for remedying of human rights violations. This would greatly help to improve the quality of human rights. The next section discusses the overlap between human rights and development.

Human rights and development as overlap

Human rights and human development support each other. That means they heavily depend on each other and cannot be promoted separately. To that end, (Jonsson, 2010) noted that “development and human rights are mutually reinforcing.” Such a method which accommodates many approaches to promote the two pillars is therefore broad based. In its annual report in 2000, the United Nations Development Programme strongly supported the overlap between human rights and development. Development can also be taken as a crucial pillar of human rights. In other words, development can be seen as contained in human rights or a sub set of it. In view of the foregoing, (Jonsson, 2010) posit that “...development exists within a human rights framework... Development should rightly be seen as an integral part of human rights.” This is in tandem with the Vienna declaration and programme of Action which advocated for the implementation of development with a human rights lens. The convergence of human rights and development can therefore not be doubted.

The convergence of human rights and development is contrary to popular belief in the past where human rights issues were relegated to the states, which had the sole responsibility to promote them. Subsequently, it remained a free will of the state whether to make sure human rights were promoted or not. The argument by (Eliasson, 2010) is of paramount importance, who noted that “Issues related to human rights were seen as internal affairs. The nation state was primary and dominant actor, together with defence alliances.” One can observe that such a scenario was subject to abuse by states as some reneged on their obligation. In such cases, human rights became a pie in the sky for the majority. There is therefore need to consider the overlap between human rights and human development for the improvement of the quality of human rights in society. Zimbabwe needs to do away with impunity when it comes to the issue of human rights. There is

dire need for the state to be accountable and meet its obligations to respect, fulfil, promote and protect human rights to improve the quality of people's human rights.

Furthermore, another approach is to view human rights as contained in development. In that case human rights are viewed as a crucial element of development. This is in accordance with the 1995 Copenhagen summit which declared that "Human rights are an integral element of the development agenda." (Jonsson, 2010). It is crucial to observe that whichever approach of those alluded to above in the paper is adopted, it is quite clear that there is a strong and undoubted nexus between peace and development. There is therefore need to integrate the two pillars for the improvement of the quality of human rights. Zimbabwe can provide a budget and develop programmes that greatly promote the integration of human rights and development.

The nexus between peace and human rights

Human rights and accountability

States need to meet their obligations as duty bearers in promoting human rights and human development. To that end, (Jonsson, 2010) observed that "Duty bearers are accountable for the observance of human rights for rights-holders." Duty bearers can use some of the following ways to promote human rights; provide a budget, create a conducive environment and enacting legislation for redress when the need arises. Rights holders must be capacitated to demand the fulfilment of their rights from duty bearers. It could be argued that the nexus between human rights and peace enables duty bearers to meet their obligations. The nexus between peace and human rights therefore acts as a monitoring mechanism. There is also need to hold civil society and donors from the international world accountable to set standards. One can therefore posit that peace in this case acts as a guide and monitoring tool for good governance. This is in tandem with the recommendations of the United Nations Common Understanding which advocates that development collaboration should

develop competences of both duty bearers and rights-holders. The realization and promotion of good governance is quite crucial for sustainable peace. Furthermore, there is need to promote universal primary education as a way to promote peace and development. To that end, (Kirbassov, 1994) noted that “Education is key for both peace and sustainable development. Governments should encourage and support private schools and be open to private-public partnerships in education.” It is quite evident that there is a strong interconnection between peace and human rights.

Peace and normal lives

The general activities of life are easily carried out in a peaceful environment. These include the day-to-day normal life activities like eating, which is a basic human right that can be easily enjoyed in a harmonious environment. It has been argued that peace and justice do not exist in isolation as both aim to attain universal values. To that end, (Barbey, 2015) asserts that “...peace: it prepares preventive and humane ways to address conflict and difficulties of all sorts. Human rights, as they empower people to live their lives fully are also proactive. Here, peace and human rights merge.” Respect for human rights promotes creativity, citizen participation and people lead their daily lives without any threats which allows prosperity leading to development. (Sen, 2000). In view of the foregoing, it is quite significant to observe that the intersection of peace and human rights is quite clear and uncontested. There is therefore dire need for the exploitation of these intersections between peace and human rights for the improvement of people’s human rights. It could be argued that peace can be a subset of human rights or human rights can be a subset of peace (Nelson *et al.*, 2003). Whichever way is adopted does not matter but what is crucial is to consider the inter-connectedness of the two important pillars. The prevailing harsh economic conditions in Zimbabwe do not allow the free enjoyment of normal life activities like eating as food is unaffordable. There is need to craft favourable

economic policies that promote access to resources without any hindrances to improve the quality of human rights. This would thus lead to positive peace, participation and human rights.

Peace and democracy

The World over has seen a decline in dictatorships and a rise in democracy. There is also a general decline in conflicts. In most countries, peace has been laid in a firm foundation leading to the progress in human rights. It is therefore quite clear that the demand for and promotion of human rights is possible in a peaceful environment. Conversely, in a war or violent situation, it is a big challenge to respect human rights and hence the respect for human rights is limited. In addition, citizens have no space and time to demand their rights as they will be concentrating on survival first. In a peaceful environment, states can thus be able to adhere to international treaties and conventions than in a war or conflict situation. The universality of human rights, though it is contested is possible to be implemented in a peaceful or stable environment. The universal Periodic Review process is a good example of an international convention which enables states to review, redress and promote human rights. (Barbey 2015). The intersections between peace and human rights is therefore crucial for the improvement of the quality of human rights. The promotion and maintenance of peace should be the number one priority by the Zimbabwe government to attract investment. The previous violent situations that prevailed especially in the run up to and during elections have created a very bad image of the country and that has repelled potential and existing investors thereby stalling development. The government has to put spirited efforts to remedy the situation by making efforts to promote peace and respect human rights. This will resultantly promote investment and hence an improvement in the quality of human rights will be realized.

The role of Governments

Creation of a peaceful environment

Governments should create a peaceful environment that is conducive for investment to take place. At all costs governments should avoid conflict situations which drive away potential and existing investors. Peace at all costs should be promoted to attract potential investors as well as retain existing ones. It could be argued that peaceful countries have enjoyed a larger share of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) compared to violent states that have been shunned by investors. The most violent regions of Africa for example the horn of Africa and the Great Lakes regions have lagged in development as investors are not attracted to them due to the high incidences of violence and intractable conflict. The citizens have also not benefited from the abundant resources that they are naturally endowed with due to violence. The governments can manage that through respect, fulfilment, protection and promotion of human rights which are a crucial pillar to development. In view of the foregoing, (Eliasson, 2011) in reference to peace, human rights and development asserts that “If one of these three pillars is weak in a nation or a region, the whole structure is weak.” This resonates well with the argument by the (Institute of Economics and Peace, 2019) which noted that “As peacefulness increases, so does satisfaction with life, freedom, and feelings of respect.” A close relationship exists between the level of peacefulness and type of governance. There is therefore need for respective governments to promote democratic governance as a way to promote the inter-linkage between peace, human rights and development for positive peace to be realized in society.

Craft policies

In order to promote peace, human rights and development, states have to craft policies that promote intersections of these three pillars. This is possible by enacting policies that are inclusive and have a bottom-up approach rather than a top-down approach. It is important to

observe that policies of exclusion and relative deprivation have been the major causes of conflict and violence which scare away potential and existing investors. This has led to the emergence of intra-state resource related wars as opposed to interstate wars. There is therefore need to integrate peace and human rights so that development is realized. To that end, (Barbey, 2015) posit that “Peace, democracy and human rights ...have an ideal in common: they are human values required for the well-being of all.” This corroborates well with the findings by (Eliasson, 2011) who acknowledged that “We know that the question of peace and the question of human rights are closely related. Without the recognition of human rights we shall never have peace and it is only within the framework of peace that human rights can be fully developed.” It could be argued that the inter-linkage between peace and human rights needs to be fully exploited to promote development in states. There is therefore need for nations to fully take development as a human rights issue to minimise chances of conflict in states.

Incorporate human rights in development

Furthermore, there is need for states to incorporate human rights in the development discourse. The state as the duty bearer has to ensure that human rights are placed at the centre of development in order for peace to be realized. (Nelson *et al.*, 2003). Countries also have to adhere to international laws or conventions on the promotion of human rights as part of the right to development agenda. The 2005 World summit declaration agreed that “We acknowledge that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations systems and the foundation for collective security and well-being. We recognize that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.” (Eliasson, 2011). This is clear evidence that the incorporation of human rights in the development agenda is crucial for the realization of peace and development and hence promote the quality of people’s human rights.

The incorporation of human rights in the development agenda also ensures full participation by citizens in the political decisions of the state. The theory of positive peace, participation and human rights serves as the interface between peace, human rights and development. This greatly helps to minimize chances of the outbreak of violence thereby maintaining peace in the state. In view of the foregoing (Barbey, 2015) argued that “The advantages of making peace a human right are numerous; people, the human rights system and the government will all benefit from it. It will make states less prone to violence and thereafter render democracy more accessible and legitimate.” Resultantly, investment will increase from both potential and existing investors leading to social development. Human rights abuses in Zimbabwe for example, have led to targeted sanctions and the crafting of ZIDERA by the United States of America leading to international isolation. This has greatly limited foreign direct investment, reduced trade and foreign currency inflows leading to low levels of investment and hence lack of development and high poverty levels. This has also made the situation volatile with a potential to explode into violent conflict. An analysis of the western conception of human rights is necessary and it is done in the next section.

Western Notions of Human Rights

The western construct of human rights is that human rights are universal to all human beings by benefit of their humanity and as such these rights cannot be taken away from them. The Western concept of human rights is based on Universalism in which they strongly believe that there are no cultural considerations when promoting human rights. To that end, (Nhina Lee 2016) argued that “Universalists believe that same legal enforcement mechanisms of human rights exist everywhere. Cultural relativists argue that there are diverse ways to interpret and to use or abuse human rights.” The western concept of human rights believes that they can cut across different cultural settings. They further argued that those who advocate

for cultural differences in the promotion of human rights want to use that as an excuse to oppress citizens. In view of the foregoing, (Anon 2014) noted that “The second section will demonstrate how cultural diversity and how cultural relativist arguments are used by states to justify behaviour which abuses the rights of its citizens and to claim non-required adherence.” It may be crucial to observe that while cultural diversity needs to be incorporated in the promotion of human rights, the use of culture as a justification to deny citizens their rights is not acceptable. In such cases, the western notion of human rights becomes most appealing.

Methodology (Methods/Procedures)

A qualitative analysis approach was used in which data were collected and analysed. Primary data were collected from respondents by the use of questionnaires and interviews. The study then analysed the data obtained from these sources. Information was also obtained from textbooks, journal articles, newspapers and published manuscripts related to the topic. These were selected using internet search engines such as Google and physical library reading. A total of 24 were because they covered the topic in detail and it also helped to eliminate bias. They were then reviewed, organized, sifted and interpreted into meaningful information. The major objective was to obtain accurate information on the situation on the ground on the integration of peace, human rights and development. However, qualitative data has been observed to universalize assumptions about the measurement of violence, war and other variables. It also promotes conclusions to be made without necessarily getting into the field (armchair empiricism). Qualitative research involves the study of small groups of people and analysing their responses to understand human behaviours. Qualitative research helped me to understand the inter-linkages between peace, human rights and development in Zimbabwe. The population consisted of human rights experts, civil society representatives, victims of human rights and citizens. They were people

aged between 18-65 years because they have experience and exposure to current trends on human rights discourse. The sample, 561 is a representative sample and has sufficient statistical power not to reach wrong conclusions. Quota sampling helped me to identify citizens between 18 and 65 years who had general knowledge on human rights issues. Snowball sampling helped me to identify participants with expert knowledge on human rights. Triangulation of the two data collection methods was done to ensure validity.

Data were analysed using descriptive narratives such as content and thematic analysis. Step 1 was making sense of narrative data by identifying key themes and concepts, step 2 was generation of initial codes by circling or highlighting words and phrases in the text, step 3 was reviewing themes and step 4 was defining and naming themes. This helps to generate meaning or theory development from the data obtained. On data analysis, (Denzim and Lincolin, 2018) noted that “The researcher does not just leave the field with mountains of empirical materials and easily write up his or her findings...The final take from the field may assume several forms: confessional, realistic, impressionist, critical, formal literary, grounded theory and so on” Structured interview questions were transcribed and analysed question by question to derive meaning from the content obtained. Open ended questions were analysed by identifying themes, common phrases and keywords in which numerical and hierarchical data coding techniques were employed. This enabled the researcher to draw reasonable conclusions from the collected data.

Results and Discussion

Type of study

This is a survey on Zimbabwean citizens to collect data for research

Research sample

The data were collected from individuals who were willing to participate in the survey. They were people in Zimbabwe aged between 18-65 years of age due to ethical practice and some of knowledge of human

rights issues. My research used non-random sampling, specifically quota sampling and snowball sampling techniques. I used quota sampling specifically to identify participants who were between 18 and 65 years, who had general knowledge of human rights issues in Zimbabwe. As a result, 336 participants with general knowledge on human rights were identified and interviewed. To obtain information from experts in the field of human rights in Zimbabwe I then used the snowball sampling technique in which participants referred me to another expert (participant referral). Resultantly, 225 participants with expert knowledge of human rights were interviewed. This is because there were specific characteristics and special experiences or exposure my research participants had to have as core aspects of my study. These techniques helped me to interview the right participants and hence obtain reliable and valid information.

Data Collection Methods

To obtain the required information, two main methods of data collection were used. The first method was the use of in-depth interviews. In-depth interviews ensure that the researcher captures what is relevant from experts in the field. They are therefore useful when you want detailed information about a person's thoughts and behaviours or want to explore new issues in depth.

Questionnaires were also used as a second method to collect data from respondents in which the house hold drop-off survey method was employed. This enabled the participants to work on the instrument at their convenient time thereby ensuring privacy and confidentiality which is crucial given the politicization and sensitivity of the topic in Zimbabwe. This method also promoted personal contact between the researcher and the respondent, which enabled clarification where necessary. The method is reasonable and appropriate to capture the information sought by the researcher and it also ensured a high response rate. The researcher distributed questionnaires to respondents to research subjects who were willing to participate.

Results

Response rate

Out of the 615 questionnaires distributed to volunteered participants 598 were returned for data analysis. Nevertheless, 6.24% were incomplete and could not be analysed for this research. Thus 561 were analysed, presented, discussed and interpreted henceforth. This sample ensured representativeness.

Respondent Characteristics

The respondents were 22.22% females and 77.78% males. 125 of the respondents were females and 436 were males. 225 of the respondents were experts in the field of human rights whilst 336 had basic knowledge of the subject.

Table1.1

Age Range (Years)	Knowledge of Human Rights		Experience(Years)		Total
	Expert	Basic	10-19	20+	
18-30	7	111	7	0	118
31-43	119	106	69	50	225
44-56	42	63	17	25	105
57-69	38	47	7	31	85
70+	19	9	9	10	28
Total	225	336	109	116	561

Characteristics of Respondents

Data Analysis, Results, Discussion and Interpretation

The names used in this part of the research are pseudo-names and not real names for ethical reasons. The following themes emerged from the research findings;

Theme 1: There are gross human rights violations in Zimbabwe from 2017 to date

The respondents were asked to choose whether human rights violations in Zimbabwe were moderate, slight, gross or other in the period specified, with an opportunity to explain. 88.89% of respondents said that there were gross human rights violations in the country, 5.56% said there were moderate human rights violations and 5.56% pointed out that human rights violations were mild in the country. The majority of the respondents (88.89%) agreed that human rights violations were gross in Zimbabwe in the period in question.

This means that there are serious human rights violations in Zimbabwe which is negatively impacting on development. Lack of development has been observed to typify countries where violence is prevalent and human rights violations are rampant. To that end the 1993 Addis Ababa conference observed that conflict poses a direct threat to development. This is in tandem with the findings by (Collier, 2007) who posit that “The relationship between low income and civil war may seem obvious-if you read newspapers, you will see that the countries where there is conflict are far more likely to be poor. After all, when a civil war looks to be in the cards, investors flee, and the economy declines... “This clearly shows that there are gross human rights violations in Zimbabwe.

When asked to explain, representative comments were as follows;

Taps: “Citizens have no right to demonstrate in the country, they fear the government as they are killed by soldiers and the police. The international community must intervene and stop these abuses as they are contributing to an upsurge in uprisings and strikes.”

Dhadza: “People are not free to express their views in this country. There is no freedom of association, movement and expression. Human rights defenders, political activists and journalists are being arrested and tortured for expressing their views leading to an increase in discontentment, demonstrations and violence in general. This has led to the rise of rebel groups like Mthwakazi in the country.”

All the participants agreed that there are gross human rights violations in the country. They also agreed that human rights violations lead to rebellion by certain sections of society hence leading to an increase in violence by using common expressions such as “...leading to an increase in discontentment, demonstrations and violence in general” and “...leading to an upsurge in uprisings and strikes.” This clearly shows that respondents concur that there are gross human rights abuses in the country. This is a violation of international best practice which provides for the respect, protection, promotion and fulfilment of human rights by states as duty bearers. Notably, the United Nations Charter aims “To achieve international Cooperation... in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion;” States therefore need to respect human rights in tandem with international law. Furthermore, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) aims to create an open and democratic society based on openness, human dignity, freedom and equality.” The Zimbabwean Bill of rights protects a number of socio-economic rights such as the right of access to housing; the right to have access to healthcare, food, water and social security and other rights. It is crucial to observe that most of these provisions in the Bill are aspirational, as they simply exist on paper but are rarely put into practice. The meaning derived from the responses have nuances of a western approach to human rights promotion which is universal to be applied in Zimbabwe.

These responses clearly means that human rights violations are a threat to peace as they may lead to the escalation of violence. To that end, (Skarstad and Strand, 2016) argued that “Human rights violations reduce government legitimacy, enabling the formation of violent rebel groups who easily garner popular support from affected groups.” This clearly shows the impact of human rights violations in society at large and on Zimbabwe in particular. There is therefore need for the government to be proactive and take the necessary steps to prevent the situation from degenerating into chaos.

Theme 2: There is a link between peace, human rights and development.

The basic question asked in the questionnaire was “Is there any connection between peace, human rights and development?” All the participants (100%) answered question 1 in the affirmative meaning they totally agreed that there is an intersection of peace, human rights and development. Participants had an opportunity to explain their responses and representative comments in the questionnaire were as follows;

Dhewa: “Peace brings policy that is stable and effective to have development. A state that is peaceful has citizens who trust the government and both parties can work together effectively for development.”

Kandido: “The violations have negatively affected development. There has been massive brain-drain as people ran away from human rights abuse. The country has been isolated and slapped with sanctions due to human rights abuses. International investors have shunned investing in the country hence economic stagnation.”

Bhachi: “Violations killed development in so many ways. It reduced investor confidence which killed FDI, killed ethics and integrity on the market, promoted parallel market and killed formal business. According to a new analysis from the Danish Institute of Human Rights, investment in freedom and participation rights might have positive impacts on economic growth. By investing in human rights the economic growth rate of a country is likely to increase rights to freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and association and electoral self-determination have a significant positive effect on economic growth.”

Gido: “Human rights violations affects peace in the country and promotes civil unrest which hinders development. Human rights violations affects relationships with international community thereby straining trade and commerce which are pillars of development.”

All the participants (654) agreed that human rights abuses negatively affect development in the country. They also agreed that

human rights abuses affect peace in the country which in-turn reduces development by using expressions such as “violations killed development in so many ways” and “human rights violations affects peace in the country.” These were some of the common responses from participants.

These responses clearly mean that violence and human rights abuses greatly reduce development and hence leading to poverty in the country. The 1993 Addis Ababa Conference observed that conflict poses a direct threat to development. (Green and Singer, 1984). This is in tandem with Larsen’s findings in 2017 who “Attributes lack of development, deceleration and reversal of it to the absence of peace.” This is also evident in Zimbabwe where there has been a significant decline in economic development as the country has been shunned by potential and existing investors due to human rights issues. The interface therefore between peace, human rights and development needs to be promoted. This is possible through the promotion of Economic, Social and Political rights as enunciated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). In that regard, the observation by (Jorgensen, 2017) is quite striking, who noted that “Using a dynamic panel data estimation method on 167 countries between the years 1981 to 2011, we can see that the rights to freedom of speech, freedom and assembly and association and electoral self-determination have a significant positive effect on economic growth. “This clearly indicates that there is need for the promotion of human rights to achieve durable peace and development.

Theme 3: Effective strategies and mechanisms to link peace, human rights and development can help reduce conflict and violence

The basic question asked in the questionnaire was “To what extent can this linkage help to reduce conflict and violence?” The respondents were asked to choose whether the linkage was to a moderate extent, not at all, to a lesser extent and to a greater extent. 94.12% pointed out that the link was to a greater extent, 5.88% to a moderate extent and 0% to a lesser extent.

When asked to explain, representative comments from participants were as follows;

Nodza: “Rigorous teaching campaigns to the general public based on peace, human rights and development. Through implementation of the country’s constitution. Respecting human rights so as to promote peace and development.”

Dhidza: “The strategies include among others;

1. Being a signatory of the United Nations and following the recommendations.

2. Ensuring that there are platforms for citizens from all walks of life to express their grievances freely as far as human rights are concerned. If the raised concerns are addressed, that will go a long way to mitigate conflicts.

3. Ensuring that there is a conducive environment for all citizens to participate in economic growth as well for international investors to invest in the country.”

Kaya: “Promote true democracy, respect rule of law, curb corruption and allow freedom of speech before, during and after speech, disengaging government institutions from politics to remain regulatory. Avoid policy inconsistencies and have clear policies among other things.”

Tari: “To promote peace and human rights there is need to dialogue and respect for human rights and respect differing views/opinions.”

The majority of the participants (94.12%) agreed that the interconnection between peace, human rights and development is to a greater extent. They also agreed that the promotion of peace and human rights leads to the realization of development by using expressions such as “respecting human rights so as to promote peace and development” and “...all citizens participate in economic growth as well for international investors to invest bin the country.” These were some of the common responses. This resonates well with the findings by Jorgensen who noted that “The effect of human rights investments differ globally from region to region: In Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and Central Asia our analysis finds a significant,

positive long-run effect on human rights investment on economic growth.” This clearly shows that countries can greatly develop economically by heavily investing in human rights promotion.

These responses clearly mean that there is need to respect, protect and fulfil human rights as a strategy to promote development. This can be achieved through involving citizens in decision making processes to promote peace and development. Furthermore, there was evidence of blatant disrespect for the provisions of the constitution and state capture of crucial institutions from the responses. Expressions used were “through implementation of the country’s constitution” and “...disengaging government institutions from politics to remain regulatory...” It could be argued that there is evidence of the state slightly morphing into a dictatorship which poses a serious threat to peace. The escalation of violent protests and the August 1 2018 shootings of protestors give credence to this assertion.

Theme 4: There can be an alternative framework for effective promotion of peace and human rights a country can implement.

There can be an alternative framework to promote the inter-linkages between peace, human rights and development. The basic question asked in the questionnaire was “Is there a framework for effective promotion of peace and human rights a country can implement?” 98.93% of respondents agreed that there is a framework a country can implement to effectively promote peace and human rights. The remainder (1.07%) did not describe the framework, meaning it is not there or they were not sure. The majority agreed that a framework can be implemented to promote peace and human rights.

When asked to describe the framework, the following responses emerged;

Dada: “Educational campaigns, a vibrant human rights commission in place and independent strong institutions. These institutions can start the ball rolling towards redress.”

Aki: “Citizens can demand accountability through various platforms. Put in structures and solid systems in place.”

Kaya: “Peace building, human rights education and conflict resolution. Sustainable development projects and awareness programmes.”

Kiki: “Public awareness, people need to know that their rights need to be protected not exploited. Zimbabweans are too passive.”

Chuchu: “Citizens need to organize campaign groups to help themselves meet like-minded people and take action. They also create awareness and help familiarise people with existing international laws and rules on the protection of human rights violations. Citizens also need to articulate steps the state must take to provide redress and protection for victims of human rights violations.”

The majority of the participants (98.93%) agreed that there can be a framework for effective promotion of peace and human rights which can be implemented. They agreed that this is possible through involving citizens by using expressions such as “Public awareness, people need to know that their rights need to be protected not exploited...” and “Citizens need to organize campaign groups to help themselves meet like-minded people and take action...” and “Citizens need to demand accountability through various platforms...” These were some of the common responses. These responses corroborate well with the findings of (Gaventa, 2002) who posit that “the questions of how citizens, especially the poor, express voice with influence, and how institutional responsiveness and accountability can be ensured, have become paramount.” Citizen participation and accountability of those in leadership positions has to be promoted to promote peace and promotion of human rights.

These responses clearly mean states have to meet their obligation of rendering citizens their right to exercise full enjoyment of their rights. When violations have occurred, it is the duty of the state to make sure citizens have access to judicial mechanisms to seek redress. To that end the United Nations observed that “Where the State is responsible for a human rights violation through its acts or omissions, it is under an obligation to provide adequate, effective and prompt

reparation to the victim(s). Indeed, where reparation is not provided, the obligation to provide an effective remedy ... is not discharged.” It could be argued that in all these cases highlighted above, no mechanisms have been put in place to remedy human rights violations. Accessibility to judicial and other mechanisms for redress has been curtailed. Unsurprisingly, many reports on violations have emerged to the effect that “Several human rights and political activists, journalists and opposition political supporters are languishing in remand prison, while others have been arrested, charged and released for alleged subversion.”

In view of the foregoing, it can be argued that there is dire need for the promotion of positive peace, citizen participation in the affairs of the state and effective promotion of human rights. A framework to ensure redress for human rights violations therefore becomes of paramount importance.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The preceding discussion highlighted the nexus between peace, human rights and human development. Focus was on the best ways to harness the inter-linkages of the three pillars of peace, human rights and human development in improving the quality of people’s human rights. It was quite evident from the research that treating the three, peace, human rights and human development separately and in isolation does not in any way lead to an improvement in the quality of human rights. The study would like to argue that in the light of all the evidence presented above, there is need for countries to move in abreast with modern trends which demand the integration of peace, human rights and human development for the improvement of the quality of people’s human rights. In addition, countries need to adopt a number of strategies highlighted in the essay in order to improve the quality of people’s human rights. It is therefore quite evident that modern day human rights can be improved by exploiting the dialectical nexus between peace, human development and human rights. Areas for further research may include an investigation of mechanisms and

strategies for effective promotion of human rights and remedying human rights violations especially in contested political environments.

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Abbreviations

AIPPA - Access to Information, Privacy and Protection Act

FDI - Foreign Direct Investment

GDP - Gross Domestic Product

HRBD - Human Rights-Based approach to Development

NPM - New Public Management

ZIDERA - Zimbabwe Democracy and Recovery Act